

Editorials

.... WITH A PURPOSE

THE INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER
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SCHRICKER KEEPS PLEDGE

Governor Henry F. Schricker pledged months ago that he would be sympathetic and co-operative in the matter of problems confronting colored persons in the national emergency program. By naming Representative J. Chester Allen of South Bend the Governor has shown that he means to do everything to place Indiana among the foremost states responding to the call for preservation of democracy.

Recognizing that Representative Allen is very capable and that all available men and resource must be used in order to present an united front, Governor Schricker has shown that he believes the best way to preserve democracy for private citizens, workers and capital is to make it work by making it real and practical. The greatest preachment favoring democracy and the retention of our present form of government is that of allowing all the citizens to become beneficiaries of that system.

There is the rather grave danger that our democracy will be weakened by short-sighted persons and employers because of an industrial philosophy out-of-step with the acts necessary to preserve America against the alarming growth of foreign isms. Why can not industry clearly see that it is far cheaper to allow people to work for a decent wage, thus cutting the tremendous cost of the relief load? Does not industry realize that thirteen million dissatisfied persons are made-to-order for the subversive groups which, under the systems they advocate, would take the factories and money which capital apparently and recklessly believes secure. Hungry people on the outside of industrial speed-up do not take the time to think of tomorrow and what their status will be under a foreign system. They are concerned primarily and primitively with the urge to eat—and they will eat, regardless of the cost.

The number of jobless and economically limited persons turning to the soft sound of subversive agents and the heartening tinkle of money (which buys food and other necessities) grows too large to be lightly shrugged aside. This element may never become a militant fifth column but who can say it will not? Who can place accurately the damage done in undermining the defense program, our industrial system or, for that matter, the whole American pattern of life and government? If employers are going to be profitably selfish even, they will have to check the inroads of foreign poisons which sooner than most realize will rot their systems.

Governor Schricker, I believe, sees this and is prepared to act accordingly; that is no doubt why, among other reasons, he has launched a sound program including colored workers in the defense program. The intent is not to minimize the honest, the directness, the fairness and the sympathy I believe Governor Schricker has for the problem of the colored citizens of this state. It is merely that he has vision enough and courage enough to show the state how best to develop a fool-proof insurance against the inroads of subversives and the collapse of democracy.

Every straight-thinking citizen in the state will approve of the Governor's action in the problem of colored workers in defense since the first of the year until June, the date of this writing. He has so behaved that unity can result if and when everybody is ready to realize the seriousness of our situation and to attack the problem with honesty and earnestness.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Gratitude is an inescapable debt; Love a law and Tolerance the Yardstick of Democracy.—Hibbitt.

STATE NAACP ACTIVE

At a recent meeting the state National Association for the Advancement of Colored considered the most pressing problems confronting the colored citizens of Indiana and lay tentative plans for an assault upon those of pressing interest. That the state NAACP is going to do its part in not only aiding the program of national defense but of strengthening our constitutional concept of government, is very reassuring news.

For a great many years the NAACP program in this state has drawn upon many of our ablest men and women and their capable and often brilliant efforts are legends of loyalty and sacrifice for the interests of an outlawed minority group. Only in winning enjoyment of constitutional rights and safeguarding others, have these unselfish persons been part paid. These civic persons have stood year after year with their little band of Spartans, fighting against tremendous odds for a place in the sun and their victories have been all the more remarkable because of the great opposing odds.

That the State NAACP has met and faced squarely our present problems, is a tribute to the fine work done by a parade of capable and brilliant men and women, many of whom rank in service and distinction with any of any state or of our own. The NAACP battle-cry is always the most heartening sound among all the others. Support the state group and its great program.

LET'S GET READY TO SERVE

Let us take every possible means of preparing ourselves to serve in the industrial phase, too, of the national emergency plans. Wherever there is the chance of being trained for defense industries and others having labor shortages, let us go and get it. Millions of federal dollars are being spent to school persons for industrial, Army, Navy, and Aviation service and there can be no legal way of denying colored citizens the opportunity of getting the benefits as well as other citizens.

The pronouncement of President Roosevelt, asking that racial, religion, and color discrimination be stopped, should have set the pattern for many localities which have been guilty of this practice. If the terse request of the President meant anything, it is clear then that it is not intended that the national policy should follow the vicious lines of discrimination found in many sections.

It necessarily follows that people charged with safeguarding America in perhaps its most crucial hour are the offending parties. And it is altogether probable that a request to establish the staunch Americanism of persons guilty of such gross discrimination may find favor with federal authorities. Many countries have found to their great sorrow that innumerable officials in responsible positions have been tools of their enemies. And it is high time to learn just who and what people are who fight the efforts of unity and democracy.

JUDGE LYNCH IN TEXAS

Last week we discussed penal reforms in these columns. We spoke of a "double standard of justice," and deplored the tendency on the part of juries to consider lightly crimes committed by members of the colored race against persons of color. We deplored this as a serious defect in the administration of our criminal courts.

We come back to the subject this week to call attention to an incident in a Texas court, which involves the integrity of the judiciary, placing the bench in the particular case in a far more untenable light than any recent action on the part of a jury.

When a Negro defendant was being

tried the third time for an alleged crime that usually brings a first degree conviction, the husband of the plaintiff stepped up, drew a gun from his pocket, and shot the accused dead in his seat.

The judge sitting on the bench placed the killer in a \$500 bond, under which he was quickly released.

Ordinarily a judge on any bench would commit any man to jail in contempt of court for shooting a man to death in his presence and in his court under any provocation whatsoever.

The action of this Texas judge needs no explanation. It is a part of the administration of justice which flagrantly discriminates against colored Americans.

Two higher courts had reversed previous convictions of the victim of this Texas court assassin's bullet. Had not there been serious doubts of his guilt, or obvious miscarriages of justice in the lower courts in connection with this man's previous two convictions the Texas supreme court would not have reversed the first conviction and the United State supreme court would not have reversed the second conviction.

It appears that a travesty against justice in the courts of Texas was committed because this particular court, and this particular judge, was impatient with a man's efforts, exerted under his full constitutional rights to establish his innocence before the court—Journal and Guide.

CRUISING 'ROUND

(BY L. A. MARTIN)

- 1.—The Column Apologizes.
- 2.—Mr. Allen, Be Careful.
- 3.—Both Con and Coin Were Hard For Joe.
- 4.—Lockfield Still Looking Up.

LAST WEEK the column attempted to pay a tribute to the former pastor of Bethel A.M.E. church, Rev. R. C. Henderson, and also a tribute to the church itself and the Column is astonished to find that it succeeded in doing neither, in fact, it was an insult to the former pastor. Now, this was farthest from the column's intentions. In the thirteen years of its life the column never intentionally insulted any one, much less the distinguished Reverend in question. The A.M.E. church has many outstanding and highly capable pastors and it is the opinion of the writer that Rev. R. C. Henderson ranks "tops" or in its immediate proximity—but above all, the lowest to the highest, stands the A.M.E. church. Men may come and men may go, but the church goes on forever. This is all the column meant to say—and thus, hopes for forgiveness.

WE ARE proud to read that J. Chester Allen, State Representative from St. Joseph County, and father of the ill-fated H. B. 445—which was designed to give Negroes jobs in the defense industry, has been appointed on a committee of industrialists and Chamber of Commerce executives, for the purpose of "finding" and we hope "making" places, jobs at good and best wages for Negroes in not only defense industry, not only for the duration of the National emergency, but in all industry, all the time. We would much rather see the problem worked out around the conference table than by force of law. However, in view of Chamber of Commerce's record of helping the Negro so low and no higher, and advertising Indiana as 85 percent "white" native population, we are compelled to keep our fingers crossed until we see genuine and substantial results.

AT LAST the city has posted "no parking" signs on the north side—a northside street between West street and California street, one of the most hazardous blocks in the city, the way those "James boys" shoot those cars through two lines of parked automobiles, with barely enough room to skin through, would make you scream in fear of an accident. We are glad to see these signs posted although it may mean that the boys will "shoot" them faster.

WE WERE out to Lockfield Gardens this morning, just to see if the property had lost any of its magnificence, its beauty and well kept grounds. We found no grounds for complaint, the buildings are still clean and fresh looking and shrubbery in A-1 condition. More modern homes are needed in this section.

JOE HEPBURN: "You are doing neither good or bad until tongues began to wag".

Contributed Verse

LAMENTED VERSE
(To M—)

I went to bid you good-bye
 My flower,
 Through the quiet hours of morning
 I went,
 Lady moon lighted the way
 To your tent.

I made verses to your charms,
 Loveliness,
 Night added her rare delicate
 Perfumes.
 I gave my heart and all it
 Consumes.

My lips held many fond words,
 Beloved,
 Though I made them all in vain—
 All in vain
 Some day you will wish to hear
 Them again.

—Howell Owens

OLD LADY WITH A SHAWL

There's something kinda sweet
 That takes you off your feet,
 To see an old lady with a shawl,
 Beneath a wrinkled face
 You see a little trace
 Of a smile that is meant for us
 all.
 So weak and battered—
 Attired with yesterday,
 It makes one think of mother
 And you just have to say—
 That there's something kinda sweet
 And takes you off your feet
 To see an old lady with a shawl.
 —Anbrey Anthony Robinson

Never put a man in the wrong,
 He will hold it against you forever.
 If you want to be loved, be modest;
 if you want to be admired,
 be proud.

Opinion

.... OF THE PEOPLE

Public Sentiment

In The Editor's Mail

VOICE of the people—GL

A REAFFIRMATION
OF LOYALTY

By Ruth Taylor

PRAISES ROOSEVELT.

Editor The Indianapolis Recorder
 The President, who has always been most thoughtful of the Negro has just ordered the office of Production Management to urge all holders of defense contracts to utilize without discrimination available Negro labor in communities where projects are located.

The enclosed release definitely proves the friendliness of our great President for the Negro and his Christian spirit of tolerance toward all humanity. I trust that you will find it possible to carry the enclosed release in your papers.

Yours sincerely,

Fred F. Bays,

State chairman Indiana Democratic State Central Committee.

HITLER IS AN ENEMY.

Editor The Recorder,

Dear Sir:

It is more or less impossible to build a program of action based on all kinds of negatives. Thus in a discussion of what the present war is all about a section of Negro leadership calls it an imperialistic war and one that will do the Negro no good. Of course it won't do anybody much good and all of us have it.

Assuming that there is nothing for the Negro to do about this war, then it is a matter of indifference to us whether or not the Germans win world leadership. That will even include the economic domination and penetration of German influence in America. The view of the Nazi towards any race non-German is quite clear. The lowest on their list is the colored race even their allies, the Japs are going to get theirs if the Germans win.

Therefore the talk on the part of Negro leaders in encouraging indifference towards the present struggle is a call for victory for Hitler. If nobody will fight him he is bound to win.

The Negro is faced with a hard choice in America. He has the job of being treated often very badly in it and yet he has the duty and the job of working for its welfare and security. The Negro certainly admits that he is an American. The whole fight that he is making is because he feels that he is an American, therefore has rights that must be observed and he means to get them sooner or later.

What are his chances of getting them when he is not a loyal citizen in a time of peril for his country?

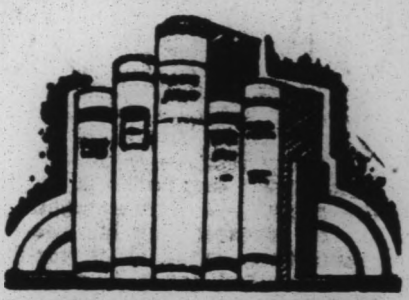
The chances are not as good as if he again proves that he did try his best as he did in the world war and got some credit for it.

As an American it is necessary for all of us to realize that Hitler is an enemy of our country and way of living.

Yours truly,

Ed. Peterson

BOOKS



ATTUCKS--DUNBAR

Adult

Benjamin Blake

— Marshal.

Benjamin Blake is a big robust novel. It is a fine historical romance and adventure story in a grand manner.

Godfrey Blake, squire of Breetholm Manor, ran off to India with a gunsmith's daughter, leaving the estate in the hands of his brother Arthur, a cruel and domineering man. Benjamin Blake was the orphan of Godfrey's liaison had been raised by his grandfather, the gunsmith. Ben is taken from the care of his grandfather and is put to work by Squire Blake at Breetholm.

Squire Blake hated Ben because he was Godfrey's son and because he was his spirit was too tough to break. He wanted to turn Blake into a humble, bowing slave. Ben endured the treatment which was given him but he swore to himself that he would escape. Ben vowed that some day he would revenge himself on Squire Blake, that he would take from him Breetholm Manor and then marry his daughter.

Ben escaped from England across strange seas and in far lands. Important to his escape and to his adventures were Mistress Blake who befriended him, Captain Greenough and the bullying mate, Gumies of the "Western Star", his

On this Fourth of July, the one hundred and sixty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is fitting that we pause and take stock of what this cornerstone of our American way of life really means.

The Declaration of Independence was much more than a proclamation emancipating the Thirteen Colonies from the mother country. It was the first statement of a new philosophy of freedom, and a long range program by which and through which to establish government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

A hundred and fifty-five years after the signing of the Mayflower Compact by the band of weary seekers after religious freedom, the Declaration of Independence declared for political freedom and stated "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." This they put into effect in more or less degree—but it took eighty-eight more years before the Emancipation Proclamation ratified the claim "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Today—seventy-seven years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and one hundred and sixty-five years after the Declaration of Independence, we are called upon to take the last step—"In support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honour."

The price of freedom has always been high. But its price is never too high, for those who have known what enslavement meant. We will be called upon to give up much, in money, in time, and in many of the things we have come to look upon as essential. The toll in patience, courage and long suffering will be great—but the sacrifices will be the regimentation and enslavement of totalitarianism in the solidarity of unified action, when each individual works as a free man for the good of his fellow citizens.

The Declaration of Independence has given us more than any other country has ever possessed in the way of freedom for all—and it will continue to do so, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence. We mutually pledge our concerted action to protect and defend with every ounce of power the democratic way of life for which it stands.

girl of the South Seas, and many others highborn and low. Ben's championship of the world-wide eighteenth century revolt against established privilege gives strength to his story and meaning to his adventures.

Benjamin Blake is a many-colored lustrous yarn that hits a fast pace from the start.

The Blue Cloak

— Bailey.

Temple Bailey's novels need no introduction to the public. "The Blue Cloak" is more than a love story; it is a novel throwing into clear contrast the habits of life and thought of the Mid-West and of the East.

The characters are very interesting and lovable. Those you meet are:

Erik Thorsen - wealthy young Mid-Westerner; with a longing to lead some great sea-faring enterprise; - Amelie Herbert - a little French girl, unhappy in her Mid-West home, whose heart and belief in Erik's dreams combines to draw the two together; - Nancy Greer - a girl from the East who resembled the goddess-like figure on a model ship built in his youth, whose breathless beauty swept Erik into a new emotional world; - and Tony Peake - Erik's classmate at Harvard, witty, sophisticated, highly cultivated son of a wealthy old New York family.

New Juvenile Books

At Dunbar.

Big Knife, the story of George Rogers Clark, — Wilson.
 Our Airliners, — Crump.
 Carlo, The hound who thought he was a cat, — Johnson.
 Roundabout, — Simon.
 Tonio and the stranger, — Coatsworth.

Treasure Below — Ellsberg.
 Cousins Luck — Knox.
 With Daniel Boone on the Carrolly Trail — Key.

The Secret Brother—Crawford.
 Terry Hole — Thorp.
 Charlotte — Severt.
 Five little scamps — Orane.
 Pete — Robinson.
 Cullen — Lost Zoo.

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